

we will be resolute. We still are strongly committed to trying to get legislation that is responsible and that will be effective. We still await any opportunity that might come up to try to offer whatever judgments that we might have that can move this process forward in a way which would deserve strong bipartisan support for this legislation.

It is a complex and a difficult issue. But there is no reason in the world that we can't do it, and do it before the end of this session. But to do so, we have to have the doors and windows opened up for the public's involvement.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, obviously, we are not going to be able to do any more business between now and the scheduled recess for the two parties to meet. As a consequence, I ask unanimous consent that the recess scheduled to begin at 12:30 begin immediately.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:19 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. SANTORUM).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 5353, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 20 minutes equally divided remaining prior to a motion to table the Bumpers amendment.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I yield myself 6 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized for 6 minutes.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, let me explain to my colleagues the difference between this amendment and my amendment that you voted on earlier this year. In March, I offered an amendment that increased the Federal grazing fee for all permittees and those who controlled more than 2,000 animal unit months paid a higher fee. This amendment is different. I have raised the ante to provide that, unless a permittee controls 5,000 animal unit months, he is totally unaffected by my amendment. In fact, any permittee who controls less than 5,000 animal unit months pays the present grazing fee.

Let me go back. What is an animal unit month? When you lease lands to

graze cattle on Federal lands, you lease it by what is called an AUM, or animal unit month. That is the amount of grass it takes to feed one cow and her calf for 1 month. Some ranchers, for example those in southern Arizona and New Mexico, graze 12 months a year. However, most of the permittees only graze 4 or 5 months because there is not any grass in the winter months. So you can calculate, based on the current rate of \$1.35 an AUM, how much a permittee is paying.

Why is this important? It is not the money. It is the principle. Mr. President, grazing occurs on 270 million acres of our Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, all Federal lands belonging to the taxpayers of this country—270 million acres. 97 percent of the people who hold grazing permits on those 270 million acres, and there are 22,350 total operators, are unaffected by the Bumpers amendment. Even the other 3 percent, who are the really big boys, are unaffected on the first 5,000 AUM's.

In other words, if you have 6,000 AUM's on your permit, for the first 5,000 you would pay the same rate you are paying right now, but on the extra 1,000 you pay whatever rate you would have to pay if you leased State lands in that particular State where the lands lie.

What does that amount to? It means, for example, that the average on State lands is \$5.58. In Colorado the rate is \$4.04. So you pay the difference in Colorado lands for every AUM over 5,000, and you would pay \$4.04.

Who are these people? Who are these 3 percent that have these AUM's? I will show you. I want you to bear in mind we passed a rather harsh welfare bill here just recently. The poorest of the poor in this country took it on the chin, and yet here is the biggest corporate welfare ripoff going on in America.

Who are these people that have more than 5,000 AUM's? And can they afford to pay more? If they lease State lands, they pay \$5.58. If they lease private lands they have to pay \$11.20. If they lease Federal lands it is \$1.35. Can they afford it? Here is Zenchiku, a Japanese corporation, 40,000 acres, 6,000 AUM's. Newmont Mining Co., the biggest gold mining company in the world, 12,000 AUM's. William Hewlett of Hewlett-Packard, 100,000 acres and 9,000 AUM's. Anheuser-Busch, one of the 80 biggest corporations in America, 8,000 AUM's. So I ask you, can these people—J.R. Simplot, in Idaho, an Idaho billionaire, a multibillionaire that controls 50,000 AUM's. Can Mr. Simplot, who is worth billions, afford to pay maybe \$2.50 more for all his cows above 5,000?

Mr. President, this national ripoff has been going on for almost 50 years. In March the offer I made to the Senate was anything above 2,000 AUM's, and I lost by three votes. So yesterday I amended my amendment to make it 5,000 hoping I could at least cause three people to change their minds about

this. It is a terrible thing for us to continue to allow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's 6 minutes has expired.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I reserve the balance of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. I believe Senator CRAIG will be down here shortly. I ask that the Chair inform me when I have used 5 minutes, if you would, please, Mr. President.

Mr. President, first of all, there are very different ways in which the public domain is used from the standpoint of grazing permits. It happens in a State like mine we have 5,000 permittees. The overwhelming number are small ranchers. And they use, for the most part, the public domain for 12 months out of the year.

So the amendment that Senator BUMPERS is talking about uses this big number, 5,000 animal unit months, which is really about 400 head of cattle if you graze on the public domain for 12 months out of the year. So it sounds like a monster, but in States like mine it is a relatively modest cattle ranching operation.

Second, to say to those who ranch on the Federal land, "You may be asked to pay the same as the State fee for this land," not only invites a fee schedule that is different from State to State, but the State leases its land on completely different rules than the Federal Government.

Yesterday, in a few minutes on the floor, I suggested that if the distinguished Senator from Arkansas would like to make the public domain in a sovereign State subject to the same inhibitions and/or restrictions that the State land has, then maybe some consideration might be given to charging a State fee.

Let me give you a major example. In one of the States, the State land cannot be used for anything other than grazing, if you lease it for grazing, everyone else is denied access to that land. You cannot get on it for recreation. You cannot get on it for hunting and fishing. But we have decided on the public domain that we lease our land under completely different conditions. We lease for grazing, and it is still open to hunting and fishing and to the building of habitat for wild game and for fish.

So the argument that there is some kind of advantage and some kind of reality and some kind of logic to saying, let us charge what the State's charge is, ignores the fact that the State leases its land under completely different rules, regulations, conditions, and inhibitions.

Additionally, we do not need two sets of fees. We do not need a fee for the rancher in northern New Mexico who has 200 head of cattle and up the road